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**Subject:** Flash Message: Region 10, , US Ecology Waste Disposal Facility Explosion (Grand View, Idaho)  
**Date:** Saturday, November 17, 2018 5:23:27 PM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)

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*This message is being sent bcc to the Region 10 Executive Team*

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## **US Environmental Protection Agency - Region 10**

**Notification No.:** State of Idaho Report H-2018-00222, Owyhee County

**Flash Message:** Region 10, US Ecology Waste Disposal Facility Explosion (Grand View, Idaho)

**Report as of:** 1700 PST, November 17, 2018

**Overview:** At approximately 0915 Mountain Standard Time on November 17<sup>th</sup>, an explosion occurred at the US Ecology Subtitle C disposal facility in Grand View, Owyhee County, Idaho. The explosion took place in a building used to process magnesium powder. It was estimated that approximately 7,000 pounds of magnesium powder were present in the building. Magnesium is an alkali metal and reacts strongly when coming in contact with water although the exact cause of the explosion is not definitively known. The initial explosion was followed by a second explosion approximately an hour later.

Two workers from the facility were reported as injured in the explosion and as of 1200 local time one employee was reported as missing. The building where the magnesium was located was significantly damaged and the explosion caused damage to surrounding buildings, several of which also reportedly contained flammable hazardous waste. The fire burning the building where the explosions occurred was reported as smoldering, but not active. Damage from the explosion compromised US Ecology's ability to access and provide definitive information on the chemical contents of all surrounding structures. There were no initial concerns about impacts to off-site air quality.

**State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions:** The Incident Commander with Owyhee County Sheriff's office requested assistance from a State-wide HazMat Team with decontamination of the injured workers so they can be admitted to the local hospital for treatment and recovery of the missing worker. Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) is providing technical assistance

to the HazMat Team.

**EPA Actions:** IDEQ and EPA continue to closely monitor the situation and are in direct communication with the Incident Commander. If assistance is requested, EPA is prepared to send an OSC to the incident scene.

**Media Interest:** Moderate

<https://www.idahostatesman.com/news/local/article221841755.html>

<https://www.kivity.com/news/explosion-at-us-ecology-idaho-site-near-grand-view>

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